



1-1-2007

Aromatherapy

Heather Lease

University of the Pacific

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/calliope>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lease, Heather (2007) "Aromatherapy," *Calliope*: Vol. 37 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/calliope/vol37/iss1/5>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the College of the Pacific Journals at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Calliope by an authorized editor of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

— Heather Lease

WHEN YOU COME HOME TO ME, I know your whole day as soon as I put my head against your chest. The cologne you wear around your neck like a medallion has the aroma of the life you put your heart and soul into. The musk of the fish you cut: slicing, rolling, serving. Add rice, roll. Fry these, put fish eggs on top. Sauces? White and red. Talk to your customers and wipe your brow. The smell of the redolent sweat from twelve hours of work. Your black chef's coat buttoned up to just under your neck. You come home exhausted; unbutton one, two, let my hands do the undoing. Remove your shoes, shirt, pants. Slide the day off your back. Now the day is gone.

Of the five, smell is the one most akin to satisfaction. I never wrinkle up my nose, I know your scent, and it is comfortable, safe. You are warm, I close my body around yours, we are rocking on the sea. I bask in your salty ocean as we sway in a rhythm with the waves. We live on a houseboat in the middle of the Pacific, I sing you to sleep each night with the siren's song in my ear. The scent of the briny blue, dancing waves, jumping, bursting with life, fish, shark, floating and flying birds. Goodnight! we say to them all. The

moon is brighter than ever with you.
I dream of you wrapping me in salty seaweed, covered with roe jewels, orange and black, pink like flesh. Breathe in deeply. We can stay here forever. I will follow where you steer.

